



U.S. Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; DUANE E. WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief; and JAN W. NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **LUIS GONZALEZ**, 42, (DOB: 5/20/1962), formerly of Las Cruces, New Mexico, to 276 months in prison, without parole, for his role in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana. At the time he committed the current offense, Luis Gonzalez was on supervised release for another marijuana trafficking charge in Nebraska. As a result of his conviction in this case, Judge Reinhard revoked Luis Gonzalez's supervised release in the Nebraska case. Judge Reinhard further ordered Gonzalez to serve an additional two years consecutively, or in addition to, the 276 month sentence imposed in the Rockford case. As a result, the total sentence imposed on Luis Gonzalez today was 25 years in prison.

JAVIER GONZALEZ, 37, (DOB: 5/29/1967), formerly of Las Cruces, New Mexico, was also sentenced today for his role in the same marijuana conspiracy. Judge Reinhard sentenced Javier Gonzalez to serve 96 months in federal prison without parole.

Luis and Javier Gonzalez both pleaded guilty on March 9, 2005. At the time of their guilty pleas, both admitted that between March 12, 2004 and March 20, 2004, they conspired with each other, and their other co-defendants, Henry Maynes, Coby Hunt, and Sandra Hernandez, to distribute marijuana. Both admitted that Luis Gonzalez recruited Javier Gonzalez to transport marijuana from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Rockford, Illinois. Both admitted that in February 2004, Luis Gonzalez transported over 50 pounds of marijuana from Albuquerque to Rockford. Javier Gonzalez and Maynes then delivered this marijuana to another individual in Indianapolis.

Luis Gonzalez further admitted that he arranged for a 300 pound load of marijuana to be transported from Albuquerque to Rockford in March of 2004. Luis Gonzalez acknowledged that he directed Maynes to recruit Sandra Hernandez to assist in the transportation of the marijuana from Albuquerque back to Rockford, Illinois. Both Luis Gonzalez and Javier Gonzalez admitted that they met at a hotel in Albuquerque and helped load approximately 270 pounds of marijuana into a rental vehicle that Sandra Hernandez was driving. Javier Gonzalez further admitted that he and Maynes followed Sandra Hernandez's rental vehicle en route back to Rockford. At some point the

two vehicles became separated. Subsequently, as Javier Gonzalez admitted, he and Maynes received a phone call from Hernandez. Hernandez told them she had dumped the marijuana in Missouri, because she had seen a sign for a drug check point. Javier Gonzalez further admitted that Maynes was later sent back to Missouri to look for the marijuana that had been dumped.

Two other participants in this conspiracy were previously sentenced by Judge Reinhard. They are:

HENRY MAYNES, 40 (DOB: 8/30/1964), formerly of Belvidere, Illinois, pleaded guilty on September 3, 2004, and was sentenced on April 20, 2005, to 46 months in federal prison without parole.

COBY HUNT, (DOB: 2/19/1982), of Belvidere, Illinois, pleaded guilty on August 27, 2004, and was sentenced on April 25, 2005, to 42 months in federal prison without parole.

On March 23, 2005, following a three-day jury trial in federal court in Rockford, **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**, 29 (DOB: 8/08/1975), of Belvidere, Illinois, was found guilty participating in this marijuana distribution conspiracy. Sentencing for Hernandez is scheduled for May 27, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. Hernandez faces a maximum potential sentence of 40 years in prison without parole, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of supervised release of at least three years following imprisonment and up to life. The actual sentence will be determined by United States District Court Judge Reinhard, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

This case was investigated the Rockford and Jefferson City, Missouri offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, with assistance from the Rockford office of the FBI, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Pulaski County (Missouri) Sheriff's Department, the Lake Area Narcotics Enforcement Group (Missouri), the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, the Belvidere Police Department, and the Rockford DEA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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